

Grown-up guide

For Is that real?, the media-literacy card game for ages 8-16. Free to print and share.

OBJECTIVE

Someone shows you a photo, a voice message or a video. Is it real, or made with AI? Every Case card describes one in words and gives two or three clues. Call it REAL or MADE and back your call with one clue out loud, or call CHECK FIRST. The Check card says what checking somewhere else found. Most points after all 12 Cases wins.

WHY THIS GAME

- 1 Kids meet AI-made photos, voices and video every day, often in a hurry and often from friends.
- 2 This game practices one habit: before believing or sharing, ask where it came from and check it somewhere else.
- 3 Every Case is described in words. There are no real deepfakes and no real people's faces or voices in the deck.

BE HONEST ABOUT TELLS

- 1 Spotting tells (extra fingers, melted text, lips out of step, a flat voice) worked well a few years ago. It works less every year, and the newest tools leave none.
- 2 The deck is built to show that: looks held up 6 of 13 times, where-it-came-from 13 of 14.
- 3 So treat a glitch as a reason to check, never as proof. A clean, glitch-free look never proves it's real.
- 4 Detector apps make mistakes too. A trusted second source beats any single tool.

RUNNING IT WITH A CLASS

- 1 About 25 minutes for all 12 Cases. Half the class time is the one-sentence explanations, and that's the lesson.
- 2 Whole class: read the Case aloud, teams hold up REAL / MADE / CHECK FIRST, one team explains per Case.
- 3 After the Check card, ask: which clue fooled people? Why did it feel convincing?

KEEPING KIDS SAFE

- 1 Making a fake picture, voice or video of a real person can hurt them badly, and in many places it breaks the law. Never make one of a classmate.
- 2 If one about you or a friend shows up: don't share it, save where you saw it, and tell a grown-up you trust.
- 3 A money or emergency request in a familiar voice: hang up and call back on a number you already had. A family code word helps.

TALK ABOUT IT

- 1 Has a voice message or video ever surprised you? How could you have checked it?
- 2 Why do fakes so often say "right now" or "don't tell anyone"?
- 3 Case 10 is a fake video of a kid. What should you do if a video like that reaches you?

THE FIVE CLUES

- 1 Source: Who posted it first? Is that really who it says? Strong. Look for the first, real poster.
- 2 Context: Does the when, where and why fit? Is it rushing me? Strong. Fakes love a hurry.
- 3 Artifacts: Glitches: hands, text, edges, lips out of step, a flat voice. Weak and fading. New tools hide these.
- 4 Too perfect: Too smooth, too dramatic, too exactly what someone wants me to feel? Weak. Real life can be amazing too.
- 5 Check elsewhere: Can I find it from someone else I trust? Call back, search, ask. Strongest. This is the call CHECK FIRST.